

## **Immunization Registry Progress in Alabama**

### **Immunization Coverage in Alabama**

According to National Immunization Survey (NIS) data for July 1998 to June 1999, the percentage of children 19-35 months of age who were up-to-date with 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, 3 doses of poliomyelitis, and 1 dose of measles, mumps, rubella vaccine was 79%. This coverage rate is one percentage point below the national average (80%).

### **Facts about Alabama State Immunization Information System (SIIS)**

- SIIS collects and manages immunization data for the entire state of Alabama.
- The targeted age group for SIIS is all children born since January 1, 1993.
- Currently, entities linking with the registry include:
  - Vital Records Department;
  - Newborn Screening Program; and
  - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program.
- As of June 21, 1999:
  - 69% of children less than 6 years old were enrolled in the registry; and
  - 2% of all providers were enrolled in the registry.

### **Other unique qualities about SIIS**

SIIS future plans include linkages with BCBS and Medicaid billing systems.

### **Other registry plans, accomplishments, and successes**

- According to the most recent CDC National Immunization Survey, Alabama has the highest childhood immunization levels in the nation. The current SIIS had several programs written into it that help public health officials identify and follow children needing additional immunizations.
- By late 1999, SIIS should be ready for private providers both to access the registry base and enter data.

### **Some challenges and barriers affecting registry progress**

One future challenge is obtaining updates from private providers regarding the administration of vaccines to uninsured children.

### **Current political or legislative factors affecting registry activity**

As per State legislation, the Alabama Department of Public Health is the agency responsible for registry development. Legislation also dictates that information may be released upon request by another provider.

**Current registry funding**

SIIS currently is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There is a need for additional funding from the State, Federal government, and/or other agencies to sustain current registry development and to maintain established systems. These additional funding sources are not identified at this time.

**Helpful immunization and immunization registry contacts in Alabama**

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